

## RECOMMENDATION FOR THE JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Submission deadline: Friday, June 28, 2024**

You may use this form to submit your recommendation. Save this form on your local device, complete it and save it again, and then send it as an attachment to: [HHSInterim@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:HHSInterim@lcb.state.nv.us).

**Name:** Yvette Williams

**Contact Information:** [ywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:ybwilliams@gmail.com); (702) 596-2559

**Organization:** Clark County Black Caucus

### **Recommendation:**

Hazel Health is the largest and most trusted telehealth solution for K-12 schools in over 170+ districts in 14 states and provides mental health professional services to over 4 million students regardless of insurance status, immigration status, or ability to pay both at school and home, including every student in Clark County School District since 2021 using ESSR dollars. Professionals are culturally competent licensed therapists: 50%+ of providers identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); 40%+ of providers are bilingual, speaking over 15 languages; Areas of expertise Foster youth, ADHD, immigration, race, LGBTQ+, body image, sexual abuse, self-harm, domestic violence, attachment disorders, military families, and more.

Hazel Health has been a valued partner in Nevada since 2019 providing school based mental and medical health. 75% of participants experienced clinically significant reductions in depression and anxiety after an average of 6 virtual therapy sessions. Due to the success of Hazel Health "HEART" protocol students using a Hazel therapist has doubled in the past year; closing significant gaps in care (including sustaining racial equity access demonstrated by data outcomes); improving mental health literacy and awareness of student mental health needs, and supports the BSU Network's Mental Wellness Ambassador Program with training and resources (peer to peer support and reducing the stigma of seeking care); nearly 80% of NV students successfully complete the HEART care program; early intervention helps identify mental health needs early, before they escalate and is successfully serving elementary students (64% of NV patients).

We propose that the HEART protocol be expanded to the rest of the state, so that all students have access to a mental health professional and close the geographic access gaps, so ALL Students in Nevada have access. ESSR funds will pay for this last school year since CCSD has recently approved to renew the annual contract for 2024-2025 and maintain access for all CCSD students, it would cost the state and additional \$1.35 Million (\$10 per/student in the remaining districts) for school year 2024-2025. The Program Total for all Nevada school districts starting in school year 25-26 is \$4,500,000.00 total, and \$5,850,000.00 total for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026). Without ESSR funds we are asking that the Nevada Legislature sustain school based mental health access for every student in Nevada and support an annual budget to include \$4,500,000.00 to sustain professional services.